



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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August 17, 2016

TO: Superintendents/Lead Administrators, Local Education Agencies
Directors/Coordinators, Exceptional Children Programs
David Machado, Director, Office of Charter Schools
Dale Armstrong, Division Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Martin Pharr, Superintendent, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Rick Smith, Superintendent, Department of Public Safety, Adult and Juvenile Justice
Barbria Bacon, Superintendent, Education Services for the Deaf and Blind

FROM: Maria Pitre-Martin, Ph.D. *MPM*
Chief Academic and Digital Learning Officer
Academic and Digital Learning

William J. Hussey, Director *WJH*
Exceptional Children Division

RE: Action Required - 2016 Exceptional Children Educator of Excellence

The Exceptional Children Division's 66th Conference on Exceptional Children will be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on November 9, 2016, and November 10, 2016. During the conference, we will celebrate educators of exceptional children for outstanding contributions made to improving student outcomes.

The recognition for each nominee will include:

- a paid conference registration fee;
- roundtrip mileage reimbursement;
- publicizing this honor in the conference program;
- a picture of the nominee displayed during the conference;
- special seating during the Wednesday morning Plenary session;
- a banquet held on Wednesday evening; and
- an award presented during the banquet.

The EC Division will register each nominee for the conference. It is the responsibility of the school system, charter school or state agency to reimburse the nominee for lodging and subsistence. If the nominee wishes to attend a pre-conference institute, the nominee should register and submit payment for the Institute.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

One nomination may be submitted by each of the following:

- Local education agencies, including charter schools*;
- Department of Health and Human Services;
- Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention;
- Department of Public Safety, Adult and Juvenile Justice; and
- Education Services for the Deaf and Blind.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

William J. Hussey, *Director* | bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (919) 807-3969 | Fax (919) 807-3243

**One educator will be selected per region for charter schools.*

The following criteria must be used to nominate an Educator of Excellence.

- The nominee must be a teacher or related service provider for students with disabilities.
- The nominee must:
 - Have a continuing license if a teacher.
 - Have at least a Class G license if an audiologist, a speech-language pathologist or school psychologist; or be licensed by the appropriate licensing board if an occupational therapist or a physical therapist.
 - Be a full-time employee or direct hire of the nominating entity.
 - Provide direct instruction or therapy/services to students with disabilities 70% of the time.
 - Be recognized as a leader in service to the school and/or school system through innovative instructional programs or methodologies that have demonstrated positive outcomes for students with disabilities.
 - Demonstrate a positive reflection on the educational profession.
 - Not have received this recognition within the past five (5) years.

Nominations will be submitted electronically and must include the following attachments:

- A .pdf of a letter that describes how the nominee meets the nomination criteria.
 - The letter must include the signatures of the Superintendent and the Exceptional Children Program Director/Coordinator on school system letterhead.

- One (1) 3" x 5" digital color photograph (jpg) of the nominee.

The electronic nomination form must have all fields completed along with the two required attachments in order to meet the submission requirements.

Electronic submissions are due by **Thursday, September 15, 2016**, using the links below:

- Traditional LEAs; Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Department of Public Safety, Adult and Juvenile Justice; and Education Services for the Deaf and Blind: <http://form.jotform.us/form/51803997994172>

- Charter Schools: <http://form.jotform.us/form/51864540758161>

You may direct any questions or concerns to Julie Whetzel at Julie.whetzel@dpi.nc.gov.

We look forward to celebrating our Exceptional Children Educators of Excellence!

MPM/WJH/CAH/JW/cp